

same mental make-up would probably have limited their families fifty years ago.

Nevertheless if Dr. Fisher is on the whole correct, civilization can only be saved by a very radical change of opinion and practice. And in particular much of the propaganda of eugenists will prove to have been misdirected. To quote his own words: "The reformer must expect to encounter deep-seated opposition in the classes on which he would naturally rely for an intelligent anxiety for the future of their country."

One conclusion is fairly clear. Before the eugenic movement commits itself on the one hand to the further encouragement of the social promotion of infertility, or on the

other to subsidizing the breeding of undesirable groups, a really thorough investigation should be made of the causes of differential fertility. There can be no doubt of its existence or of its undesirability, but several opinions are possible as to the most hopeful method of combating it.

Dr. Fisher's book, then, must be read. But it is not easy reading. It is greatly to be hoped that within the next ten years the sections dealing with evolution and eugenics will both be rewritten in a form which demands less intellectual effort in its readers. Till then it is likely to remain the best discussion of its subjects so far written.



## HENRY TWITCHIN

### Some Notes on his Family History

By W. T. J. Gun, F.R.Hist.S., F.S.G.

I HAVE been asked to make some additions to the account of our benefactor by Major Darwin in the REVIEW for July 1930, and Mr. Leonard Jessop Fulton has very kindly supplied me with information that he collected some few years ago in connection with Mr. Twitchin's pedigree.

Nothing further has been ascertained with regard to the maternal family, the Lovelocks, nor with regard to the descent of the Northways, to whom the paternal grandmother belonged. It is to be noted, however, that on this side Henry Twitchin possessed a relative, Edward Northway Butt by name, who was in business as a chemist and acquired a considerable fortune. It is probably from the Northway strain that Henry Twitchin's business ability was mainly derived.

With regard, however, to the male line descent some interesting facts have been brought to light by Mr. Fulton. The direct ancestry cannot, it is true, be definitely traced back further than Henry's grandfather, Andrew Twitchin. The name Andrew is however significant, as it is frequently found to occur in conjunction with that of Twitchin in various individuals of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, yeomen farmers for the most part or men of similar status, residing in Berkshire or its immediate neighbourhood.

Having regard to this rather uncommon Christian name, and very uncommon surname, there can be little doubt that Henry's grandfather was descended from a certain Andrew Twitchin, of Inkpen in Berks, whose will was proved November 22nd,

1657. The immediate ancestry of this Andrew Twitchin is to be found in a recently published *History of Andover Grammar School*, by Arthur Bennett and Edmund Parsons.

About the year 1547 Alexander Twitchin, whose parentage is unknown, was born at Tingewick in Bucks, about three miles from the town of Buckingham. Winchester College owned estates at Tingewick, and in consequence those of its inhabitants who could qualify possessed a claim to scholarships at the College. Alexander was so qualified and entered the foundation at Winchester in 1558; his name under that date is to be found in Kirby's *Winchester Scholars*. We learn from the *New College Register* that in 1566 he was admitted to a probationer Fellowship at that College, and in 1568 to a full Fellowship. On February 6th, 1581, Alexander was appointed first headmaster of the newly established Free School at Andover, and held that position till his death in 1611. He was in every respect an important citizen, Councillor in 1599, Bailiff (Mayor) in 1604, and from that date till his death Chamberlain, the term then (and occasionally still) used for the Borough Treasurer. One of his sons-in-law was Vicar of Andover, and subsequently headmaster of the school, while another succeeded to the living thus vacated.

Alexander had a son, Andrew, who matriculated at Hart Hall, Oxford, but did not enter any of the learned professions. He became a millowner at Andover, and, like his father, served as Bailiff of the town. He was father of the Andrew Twitchin of Inkpen, to whom reference has already been made. This Andrew was apparently a yeoman farmer, and the family were evidently not keeping up in the world. In this there was nothing remarkable; there was certainly a tendency at that, and indeed at other times, for the descendants of scholars to decline in social status. We have every reason, however, to suppose that the stock remained sound.

On the balance of probabilities Henry Twitchin was descended from Alexander the schoolmaster, and it is curious to reflect how a certain note was attained in the sixteenth century, and again in the twentieth while the intervening generations 'bloomed unseen.' There must be many similar cases: in fact, it is probable that most of the successful men of the present day, however obscure may be their immediate origin, are descended in some line or another from successful men of two or three hundred years ago. In most instances, however, particularly when the surnames are more common than that of Twitchin, accurate research is difficult, if not altogether impossible.

